



MEDIA RELEASE

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USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT SELECTS MELANIE J. DRECKSEL AS NEW AREA DIRECTOR FOR NORTHEAST WASHINGTON

Wenatchee, September 26, 2003—USDA Rural Development is pleased to announce the selection of Melanie J. Drecksel as the new Area Director for the northeast region of Washington State. Beginning October 6th, Drecksel will oversee the loan processing and servicing operations for all programs for the area.

Mrs. Drecksel has been employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) since 1987. She began working for Farmers Home Administration and later for the successor organization, Rural Development. Drecksel managed the Port Angeles Local Office for six years, and was very active in community planning issues there. She was also a Loan Specialist for the Community Facility and Rural Utility programs for four years, serving the northwest region of the state. Most recently, she has managed the Puyallup Local Office

Before joining USDA Rural Development, Drecksel worked for the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities preparing environmental documents for highway and airport projects. Mrs. Drecksel graduated Magna Cum Laude from West Virginia University with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agriculture and a minor in accounting.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure. Further information on rural programs is available at a local USDA Rural Development office or by visiting USDA's web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>. ###